

**VIGO COUNTY COUNCIL**  
**Sunshine Meeting Minutes**  
**Tuesday, April 5, 2022 at 5:00 P.M.**  
**City Court Room, City Hall**

**Pledge of Allegiance**

President Aaron Loudermilk called the meeting to order at 5:00.

**Calling of the roll**

R. Todd Thacker – absent, Vicki Weger - present, Marie Theisz - present, Travis Norris – present, Brenda Wilson - present, David Thompson – arrived at 5:22 p.m., and Aaron Loudermilk - present.

**Public Comments**

The following individuals were present and all spoke in support of the Riley Trail Project: Susan Dolle, Larry Sweet, Bill Verdeyen, Ashley Bryan, Dan Bradley, Todd Stillwell, Randy Stakeman, John Williams, Doug Knilcoch, Jim Mauriello, William Ganis, Stacey Joseph, Brad Chaney, Kurt Bryan, Janice Thompson, and Margaret Barawskas.

**Communications from elected officials, other officials or agencies of the County**

There were none.

**First reading by summary reference of proposed ordinances and resolutions**

- i. ROC 2022-11, Amended 2022 Vigo County Salary Ordinance – Prosecutor – Amend Salary Ordinance to add up to 20 additional Prosecutor Investigator positions
- ii. ROC 2022-12, Resolution 2022-04 - Prosecutor – Amend Salary Ordinance to hire certified graduate legal interns with funds appropriated for Deputy Prosecuting Attorney salaries
- iii. ROC 2022-13, Additional Appropriation 2022-09 – EDIT – Local Grant Match – Parks
- iv. ROC 2022-14, Additional Appropriation 2022-10: Alternative Dispute Resolution – appropriation into Legal Services
- v. ROC 2022-15, Additional Appropriation 2022-11 – EDIT – Recreational Trails Project
- vi. ROC 2022-15, Additional Appropriation 2022-12 – American Rescue Plan – Recreational Trails Project
- vii. ROC 2022-16, Additional Appropriation 2022-13 – County Council – Stryker Lucas chest compression system to local fire agencies
- viii. ROC 2022-17, Salary Ordinance 2022-11, Additional Appropriation 2022-14 – Veterans Assistance - Add positions, office supplies, dues, and travel

- ix. ROC 2022-18, Salary Ordinance 2022-12, Additional Appropriation 2022-15 – Adult Protective Services - Salaries
- x. ROC 2022-19, Salary Ordinance 2022-13, Additional Appropriation 2022-16 – High Tech Crime Unit Fund - Salaries

**Reports from committees**

There were none.

**Resolutions and Ordinances other than appropriations.**

**Ordinances relating to appropriations.**

**i. Additional Appropriation 2022-13; ROC 2022-16: County Council/COVID 19 Expenses**

Aaron Loudermilk reminded everyone that this had been discussed in detail last month and a demonstration of the Stryker Lucas Chest Compression System was presented. There were members of the various fire departments present if the Council had any additional questions regarding this request. The Council was satisfied with the information and presentation from last month. Council Administrator Kylissa Miller said that Joni Wise of the Health Department had commented that they would assist with funding for this request. Until that amount could be determined, this would be taken from the Covid 19 Expense account in the general fund and they would reimburse the general fund when the funds from the Health Department has been determined.

**ii. Additional Appropriation 2022-10, ROC 2022-14: Alternative Dispute Resolution**

This is a request from Judge Lakshmi Reddy to appropriate the funds collected in the Alternative Dispute Resolution Fund into Legal Services for use in family court domestic relations cases for the services approved for use through the Indiana Office of Court Services. No one was there to speak for this request. This had been touched on last month by Judge Reddy.

**iii. Additional Appropriation 2022-09, ROC 2022-13: EDIT**

Adam Grossman presented this request for additional funding to add to the already existing 2022 funding. Use of the parks and trails has increased dramatically since Covid 19. The land and water conservancy grant amount has been upped to \$1,000,000. This provides Vigo County the unique opportunity to be able to double the value of money spent. This would allow for the purchase of additional parcels to put forward Bicentennial Park in its master plan. This is the first time a grant this large has been offered which is primarily due to the rising cost of pretty much everything. There was discussion about the number of parcels remaining to be purchased, the use of the trails we currently have, and future plans. Commissioner Brendan Kearns noted that in the past, people had bought a lot of the property that is left to be acquired due to the possibility of a casino being built in southern Vigo County but now that the casino is going to be built in a different location, it is anticipated that a lot of property may now become available

for purchase. Brenda Wilson asked if this was connected with the request for the Riley Trail Project and Mr. Grossman indicated that it was not.

**iv. Additional Appropriation 2022-11, ROC 2022-15: EDIT and**  
**v. Additional Appropriation 2022-12, ROC 2022-15: American Rescue Plan**

Mike Morris was present for this request. He introduced Jade Scott who then gave a video presentation of what this request consisted of. The project would create almost 6 miles of paved trail in southern Vigo County. Use of this abandoned section of the rail lines known as the "Riley Spur" has many benefits (i.e. there would be no need to clear out trees, acquire/buy parcels of land from individual land owners, already has a solid foundation, and no flooding). In depth discussion took place about how/where it would be developed and the benefits it would provide not only to people using the trail but to the Town of Riley and the possibilities of future further development and connections to already existing trails. Rose Hulman Institute of Technology students would provide the design. It was also noted that CSX Railroad would want their company to remove the railroad ties to be sure they are disposed of properly. The cost of CSX removing the ties would be \$140,000 which is actually a cost saving from the estimates received from other contractors. The land would be leased from the railroad rather than purchased which would give the railroad the future right to re-start the railroad line if the need arose in certain circumstances. That rarely happens but it would be a possibility. Marie Theisz asked if the \$1.3 million requested covers the whole project. County Engineer Larry Robbins responded affirmatively but did note that this is a preliminary estimate and with rising costs of everything, the possibility existed that the number could go up. He also noted that the trails would be paved with asphalt. When asked what other plans existed for the use of the American Rescue Plan monies, it was said that, although plans were being discussed, nothing could be definitively talked about at this point. They are trying to use the money as much as possible to benefit all the citizens of Vigo County and improve their quality of life. It was also noted that the County and the City are working together on some projects. Brendan Kearns said that it was his understanding that this was a qualifying project under the American Rescue Plan and asked Chief Deputy Auditor Cheryl Loudermilk for confirmation. Ms. Loudermilk said that she would have to defer to Baker Tilly for that response but from everything she knows, this does qualify. Council Administrator Kylissa Miller stated that she saw nothing in the request providing for the cost of fencing. Brendan Kearns said that the letter going to the various landowners did state that privacy fencing would be provided. This was discussed at length. Aaron Loudermilk asked if they were aware of any opposition to the project. Brendan Kearns said he was aware of some but not much. He did note that an email account had been set up where people can comment their thoughts about the project. There is a link on his Facebook page ([trails@vigocounty.in.gov](mailto:trails@vigocounty.in.gov)).

**vi. Salary Ordinance 2022-11; Additional Appropriation 2022-14; ROC 2022-17: Veterans Assistance**

Tim Cunningham was present for this request. He said they average seeing 8-10 veterans each day at either given location. There were probably more people at the VA Clinic requesting to see him simply because more people are there on a daily basis for their

appointments but he still has a large number of people coming to the Government Center. At the request of Marie Theisz, Mr. Cunningham explained the process he goes through to assist veterans. He said there was no federal assistance provided to help him run the program. Brenda Wilson asked if he knew of any possible candidates to fill the staffing positions he was requesting and he said that he did.

**vii. Amend 2022 Vigo County Salary Ordinance; ROC 2022-12: Prosecutor**

Rob Roberts, Chief Deputy Prosecutor, explained that they have been unable to fill open positions for Deputy Prosecutors for quite some time. They are proposing to fill these positions with a certified graduate legal intern, which is a recent law school graduate who has not taken/passed the bar exam but can work as an attorney under the supervision of an experienced attorney while studying for/taking/waiting on results of their bar exam. This would mean they would only be eligible for this position for an approximately 3-4 month time period. The Prosecutor's Office is asking that those positions be paid 60% of the base rate of a deputy prosecutor with the same benefits available. It would be the hope that once the intern has passed the bar exam that full-time employment could be offered to them, effectively assisting with filling the open deputy prosecutor positions they have been unable to fill. Council Administrator Kylissa Miller advised Council that the proposed language to amend the 2022 Salary Ordinance had a blank that would need to be filled in once Council had decided upon the number. After discussion, it was also noted that the suggested language was only a suggestion and could be altered to fit. There was further discussion.

**viii. Resolution 2022-04; ROC 2022-12: Prosecutor**

Rob Roberts, Chief Deputy Prosecutor, explained that this is a request for approval for up to 20 additional Prosecutor Investigator positions for the High Tech Crime Unit to be filled by student investigators. These individuals would be supervised by faculty at Indiana State University, are trained in digital forensic investigations and are also supervised by experienced law enforcement personnel. Such a designation will provide appropriate protections for the interns and faculty advisors and will also allow for them to be bonded and/or insured in the same way that current investigators are covered.

**ix. Salary Ordinance 2022-12, Additional Appropriation 2022-15; ROC 2022-18: Adult Protective Services**

Rob Roberts, Chief Deputy Prosecutor, explained that federal monies had been awarded to the County for distribution to Adult Protective Service employees as bonus, hazard and/or overtime compensation for work during the Covid 19 emergency. These funds are to be used **only** for Adult Protective Service employees with the amount for each employee to be determined by the Vigo County Prosecutor. After consideration, they are requesting the funds be distributed as set forth in their request. Chief Deputy Auditor Cheryl Loudermilk explained that although this had been advertised as an additional appropriation, it had later been determined that this was not an appropriation under Adult Protective Services but was coming out of a grant fund. Therefore, no Additional Appropriation needed to be passed, only the Salary Ordinance.

**x. Salary Ordinance 2022-13, Additional Appropriation 2022-16;  
ROC 2022-19: High Tech Crime Unit**

Rob Roberts, Chief Deputy Prosecutor, explained that these are funds to be paid from the grant to current employees who are taking on additional duties associated with the grant. After discussions with the Auditor's Office and State Board of Accounts, Chief Deputy Auditor Cheryl Loudermilk explained that this Salary Ordinance was determined to be the correct way to address this issue. This Ordinance is effective only for the 2-year term of the grant and is retroactive back to the start of the grant in January of 2022.

**xi. Jail**







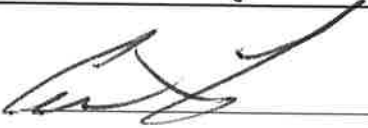
- a. Salary Ordinance 2022-04; ROC 2022-09; Jail – Add Officers
- b. Salary Ordinance 2022-05; ROC 2022-09; Jail – Amend Salaries
- c. Salary Ordinance 2022-06; ROC 2022-09; Jail – Stipends
- d. Salary Ordinance 2022-07; ROC 2022-09; Jail – Stipends
- e. Salary Ordinance 2022-08; ROC 2022-09; Jail – Shift Differentials
- f. Salary Ordinance 2022-09; ROC 2022-09; Jail – Add Position & Stipend
- g. Salary Ordinance 2022-10; ROC 2022-09; Jail – Amend Part Time Correctional Officer Rate
- h. Additional Appropriation 2022-08; ROC 2022-09: Jail

No one was present to discuss these requests but they had been discussed at length last month.

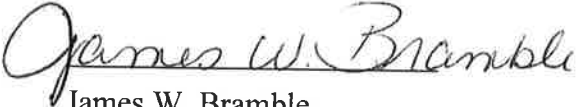
Brenda Wilson made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:40 p.m. Travis Norris seconded the motion. Upon a voice vote of 6-0, the motion was unanimously approved.

**MINUTES OF THE VIGO COUNTY COUNCIL**  
**SUNSHINE MEETING**  
**APRIL 5, 2022**

*Presented to the Vigo County Council, read in full and adopted as written this 10<sup>th</sup> day of May, 2022.*

Aye <input type="checkbox"/>	Absent <input type="checkbox"/>	Nay <input type="checkbox"/>	Abstain <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	R. Todd Thacker	
Aye <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Absent <input type="checkbox"/>	Nay <input type="checkbox"/>	Abstain <input type="checkbox"/>	Vicki Weger	
Aye <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Absent <input type="checkbox"/>	Nay <input type="checkbox"/>	Abstain <input type="checkbox"/>	Marie Theisz	
Aye <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Absent <input type="checkbox"/>	Nay <input type="checkbox"/>	Abstain <input type="checkbox"/>	Travis Norris	
Aye <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Absent <input type="checkbox"/>	Nay <input type="checkbox"/>	Abstain <input type="checkbox"/>	Brenda Wilson	
Aye <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Absent <input type="checkbox"/>	Nay <input type="checkbox"/>	Abstain <input type="checkbox"/>	David Thompson	
Aye <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Absent <input type="checkbox"/>	Nay <input type="checkbox"/>	Abstain <input type="checkbox"/>	Aaron Loudermilk, President	

Attest:

  
James W. Bramble  
Vigo Auditor